

JOINT DISTRICTS

of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year

1963



J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.



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I S L E O F S H E P P E Y
(Medical Officer of Health)
JOINT COMMITTEE

1963

Chairman:
H. C. Love

Members:

Queenborough Town Council:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.
J. W. N. Bromley

Sheerness Urban District Council:

W. C. Butterworth
A. G. Coats, J.P.
A. H. R. Copland
Mrs. E. Tiltman
H. L. Wise

Sheppey Rural District Council:

H. C. Love
N. W. Ford

Clerk of the Committee:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health:

J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Public Health Department Staff:

Mr. F. J. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk
Miss M. J. Dawe

Telephone:

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

Sheerness 2395

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1963.

For the second successive year the Registrar-General's estimate of population for the Island showed an increase, the rise being by 370 to a total of 27,660 for mid-1963. All three districts participated in the increase, Queenborough by 20, Sheerness by 100 and Sheppey Rural by 250. Births minus deaths, the natural increase in population, was 144.

Details of vital statistics will be found in Tables I, II and III showing comparisons with recent years and also of 10-year periods from the beginning of the century and the 13-year period from 1951 to date.

Birth rates in all three areas were high in 1963 and all showed increases and the number of births, 534, was an increase on the previous year which had been the highest figure since 1948. Males out-numbered the females by 20 - 277 and 257. The estimated corrected birth rate for the whole island was 22.8 as compared with 18.2 for England & Wales.

The illegitimate birth rate was 10.3 per 1,000 live births (55 out of 534) and was the highest number and rate ever recorded for the whole island.

There were 390 deaths during the year, 202 males and 188 females, as compared with a total of 346 the year before; 390 is the highest number of deaths recorded. The rate per 1,000 population for each district was higher than in 1962 and the estimated corrected rate for the Island was 13.1 as compared with 12.2 for England & Wales.

Deaths due to heart disease and associated conditions were 48% of the total, the same as the year before; cancer caused 18%, a fall from 23% in 1962; respiratory conditions caused 14% - in 1962 16%; deaths to all accidents totalled 11 against 10 the year before, 5 being motor vehicle accidents (6 in 1962) and other accidents rose to 6 from 4 the year before.

Although the increase in the number of deaths may have been due to the terrible winter that started at Christmas in 1962 and continued through January, February and March with bitter cold and snow that had not been experienced in England for over a century, the number of deaths due to respiratory conditions was 56, exactly the same as the year before whilst the percentage due to respiratory conditions was actually lower.

There were 14 deaths of infants under the age of one year, Queenborough and Sheerness both being above average and the rate per 1,000 live births for the Island as a whole was 26.2 as compared with the new low record of England & Wales of 20.9. The average for the Island over the past 5 years however has been 21.9 which is satisfactory. Peri-natal deaths totalled ~~14~~ 24 which was higher than in recent years but the average over a period is not excessively greater than the current rate for the whole country.

Table IV shows age groups of lung cancer deaths over the past 13 years.

The incidence of infectious disease and Tuberculosis is shown in Tables V and VI. 588 cases were notified of which 468 were Measles, the majority of these occurring in May to August and affecting Sheerness and the Rural district. Scarlet Fever was more prevalent than usual, 62 cases as compared with 18 the previous year; nearly half of the cases occurred in the first quarter. There were only 11 cases of Whooping Cough and with the high percentage of children now being vaccinated against this disease it is hoped this will soon be as uncommon as Diphtheria. Food poisoning caused 5 cases to be notified but as none of the cases were concerned with food handling or preparation there were only the immediate families at risk. The cruel winter depleted the local cockle beds and in consequence temporarily removed that small but real chance of a case of typhoid. 22 deaths were allocated to all forms of pneumonia but there ^{were} no deaths caused by any other notifiable infectious disease, except Tuberculosis.

8 cases of pulmonary and 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and 2 further cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis died before notification. 2 pulmonary cases also died

Pages 12 and 13 show the results of the Mass Radiography which was held in June and July and also details of attendances at the Chest Clinic. Also on page 13 are details of Venereal Disease new cases attending the Special Clinics which show an increase in male gonorrhoea cases but little significant change in the total.

Pages 14, 15 and 16 show figures supplied by the School Medical Officer relating to medical inspections and treatment.

Representatives of the Island Authorities and of other local authorities within the area of the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee continued to meet. They are opposed to the use of All Saints' Hospital at Chatham solely for geriatric patients, disagreeing with the principle of segregation of older patients; also to the centralisation of the geriatric services in that hospital because of its site, surroundings, difficulty of access, poor transport facilities and the distances visiting friends and relatives would be forced to travel.

It is urged that more beds should be provided at Sheppey General Hospital and also at Keycol if the proposal to close Milton is adhered to on completion of the new Medway Hospital. At present the 12 beds for acute cases at Sheppey General Hospital are for Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Swale, an area which holds a population of 70,000 whereas it is contended that for the Isle of Sheppey alone there should be 42 beds as a minimum and 54 as an ideal.

The representatives consider that the hospital plan annual review should be made known to them quickly and that opportunities should be given to discuss it with those formulating it. Repeated efforts to persuade the Minister of Health to receive a deputation have been made but this request has been consistently refused.

The principle of fluoridation has been accepted by the Kent County Council and by the Island authorities but the County Council have deferred making arrangements for adding fluoride to waters which are deficient in it naturally. Much publicity is given to 'anti-fluoridation' articles and the reaction of some members of the public to this propaganda barrage must be to assume that there is no smoke without fire and to doubt the wisdom of treating water supplies to prevent dental decay, but artificial fluoridation of water supplies to bring the fluoride content up to 1 part per million is supported without reservations by the General Dental Council, the British Dental Association, the British Medical Association, the Society of Medical Officers of Health, the County Councils Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Royal Society of Health, the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation.

In July of 1963 the first supply of waters from the Belmont Scheme became available and made it possible to provide a completely unrestricted supply for the first time. Work on the development of the scheme continues and it is anticipated that further increased supplies will be available from this source in 1964. Consumption again showed an increase due to domestic and industrial development and totalled 502.7 million gallons, an average daily demand of 1.35 m.g.d. and a peak demand of 1.758 m.g. In 1962 the total consumption was 450 m.g. and the peak day demand 1.627 m.g.

I wish to thank Mr. Rampling, Engineer & Manager of the Sheppey Water Board, for his ready co-operation and assistance at all times, also the Public Health Inspectors and my clerical staff for the smooth running of the department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I shows the estimated population for the past five years, the numbers of births and deaths and corrected rates for the three districts and the Island as a whole and also the birth and death rates for England & Wales. The corrected rates for the Isle of Sheppey are estimated.

TABLE I

	Year	Estimated population	Total live Births	Illegitimate and rate per cent	Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total Deaths	Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of population
Queenborough M.B.	1959	3,220	46	2 or 4.3%	14.6	36	12.5
	1960	3,200	51	3 or 5.9%	16.2	38	13.3
	1961	3,020	66	5 or 7.6%	22.2	34	12.6
	1962	3,080	74	4 or 5.4%	24.5	35	12.7
	1963	3,100	70	5 or 7.1%	24.6	38	13.5
Sheerness U.D.	1959	15,400	267	16 or 6.0%	18.7	182	12.5
	1960	14,460	269	16 or 6.9%	17.7	195	12.5
	1961	14,030	251	12 or 4.8%	17.0	205	13.7
	1962	13,620	278	28 or 10.1%	20.8	183	11.0
	1963	13,720	275	29 or 10.5%	22.6	202	13.2
Sheppey R.D.	1959	9,700	166	11 or 6.6%	19.3	131	13.2
	1960	9,730	160	11 or 6.9%	18.6	123	12.3
	1961	9,790	166	12 or 7.2%	19.2	121	12.0
	1962	10,590	176	16 or 9.1%	17.6	128	12.7
	1963	10,840	189	21 or 11.1%	22.1	150	12.9
Isle of Sheppey	1959	28,320	479	29 or 6.0%	18.4	349	12.8
	1960	27,390	480	30 or 6.2%	17.9	356	12.5
	1961	26,840	483	29 or 6.0%	18.4	360	13.0
	1962	27,290	528	48 or 9.1%	19.9	346	11.9
	1963	27,660	534	55 or 10.3%	22.8	390	13.1
England & Wales	1959				16.5		11.6
	1960				17.1		11.5
	1961				17.4		12.0
	1962				18.0		11.9
	1963				18.2		12.2

The following table shows figures and rates of infant mortality - deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births; and perinatal mortality - deaths of infants under 1 week plus still births per 1,000 live and still births.

TABLE II

	Year	No. of Births	Infant Deaths under 1 year		Deaths under 1 week	Still births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
			Total	Rate			
Greenborough M.B.	1959	46	1	21.7)	0	1	21.2)
	1960	51	0	0.0)	0	2	37.7)
	1961	66	2	30.3)	0	0	0.0)
	1962	74	1	13.5)	1	0	13.5)
	1963	70	3	42.9)	2	1	42.2)
Sheerness U.D.	1959	267	6	22.5)	6	7	47.4)
	1960	269	7	26.0)	3	5	29.2)
	1961	251	5	19.9)	2	4	23.5)
	1962	278	3	10.8)	0	7	24.6)
	1963	275	8	29.1)	4	9	45.7)
Sheppey R.D.	1959	166	3	18.1)	1	3	23.6)
	1960	160	4	25.0)	3	6	54.2)
	1961	166	2	12.0)	1	3	23.7)
	1962	176	7	39.8)	5	3	44.7)
	1963	189	3	15.8)	2	4	31.1)
Isle of Sheppey	1959	479	10	20.9)	7	11	36.7)
	1960	480	11	22.9)	6	13	38.5)
	1961	483	9	18.6)	3	7	20.4)
	1962	528	11	20.8)	6	10	29.7)
	1963	534	14	26.2)	8	14	40.1)
England & Wales	1959			22.2			34.2
	1960			21.9			32.9
	1961			21.6			32.2
	1962			21.4			30.8
	1963			20.9			29.3

Table III below shows the birth and mortality rates for 10 year periods since 1901 and for the 13-year period 1951-1963.

TABLE III

	Period	Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Queenborough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	79.6
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	86.8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	78.7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	48.7
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	37.8
	1951-1963	18.3	5.4	10.9	21.1
Sheerness U.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	115.5
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	90.2
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	60.2
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	49.9
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	32.2
	1951-1963	17.3	6.9	12.1	25.1
Sheppey R.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	46.8
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	32.0
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	34.8
	1951-1963	15.4	7.0	11.9	23.8
Isle of Sheppey	1901-1910	23.8	NK	10.9	111.2
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	89.6
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	61.0
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	44.5
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	33.7
	1951-1963	16.8	6.7	11.9	24.2

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The following table shows the deaths from the above during the past thirteen years with age and sex distribution.

Although in our local figures there is no evidence of the steady increase that is occurring nationally, the difference in male and female deaths is obvious; the males represent a proportion of 1 in 14 of all male deaths during the 13 years whilst the female proportion is only 1 in 88.

TABLE IV

Year	30-40 M F	40-50 M F	50-60 M F	60-70 M F	70-80 M F	Over 80 M F	Total M F
1951	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	3 -
1952	1 -	2 -	3 -	2 -	2 1	- -	10 1
1953	- -	1 1	5 -	4 1	2 -	1 -	13 2
1954	- -	1 -	1 -	8 2	2 -	- -	12 2
1955	- -	1 -	4 -	8 1	7 -	- -	20 1
1956	- -	- -	4 1	3 2	5 -	- -	12 3
1957	- -	2 -	1 -	6 1	2 1	- -	11 2
1958	- -	- -	2 1	2 -	3 -	- -	7 1
1959	- -	1 -	4 -	7 1	7 -	- -	19 1
1960	- -	3 -	5 1	4 -	7 1	2 -	21 2
1961	- -	1 -	2 -	7 -	5 1	2 -	17 1
1962	- -	- 1	2 1	6 -	6 1	- -	14 3
1963	- -	- -	5 2	6 -	4 1	- -	15 3
Totals	1 -	12 2	39 6	64 8	53 6	5 -	174 22

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table V shows the incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past five years.

TABLE V

	Year	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para.	Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Dysentery	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Typhoid
Queenborough M.B.	1959	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1960	10	8	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1961	4	-	-	165	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1962	4	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
	1963	6	-	-	12	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Sheerness U.D.	1959	24	65	-	18	1	1	1	-	-	12	-	-	1
	1960	40	20	-	4	6	2	-	-	2	7	-	4	-
	1961	5	16	-	677	2	3	-	-	2	3	-	12	-
	1962	12	2	-	4	13	1	-	-	5	2	1	-	1
	1963	35	10	-	251	8	1	-	-	1	3	-	4	-
Sheppey R.D.	1959	19	24	-	84	11	4	-	-	-	2	1	31	-
	1960	11	10	-	11	10	-	-	-	7	12	-	15	-
	1961	6	36	-	401	3	4	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
	1962	2	1	-	8	8	1	-	-	24	2	1	-	-
	1963	21	1	-	205	15	3	-	-	-	3	3	1	-
Isle of Sheppey	1959	47	89	-	106	12	5	1	-	-	14	1	31	1
	1960	61	38	-	22	17	2	-	-	9	19	-	19	-
	1961	15	52	-	1,243	8	7	-	-	2	6	-	13	-
	1962	18	3	-	18	22	2	-	-	31	6	2	-	1
	1963	62	11	-	468	25	5	-	-	1	8	3	5	-

TUBERCULOSIS

(a) Table VI shows the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 5-year periods since 1926 and for the 8-year period 1956-1963.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Case Rate	Death Rate	Case Rate	Death Rate
Queenborough M.B.				
1926-1930	1.40	0.89	0.25	0.00
1931-1935	1.13	0.66	0.06	0.00
1936-1940	0.61	0.41	0.06	0.00
1941-1945	0.96	0.88	0.07	0.14
1946-1950	1.07	0.47	0.06	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.12	0.06	0.06
1956-1963	0.28	0.12	0.00	0.00
Sheerness U.D.				
1926-1930	1.12	0.80	0.28	0.04
1931-1935	0.83	0.61	0.24	0.12
1936-1940	0.65	0.43	0.18	0.05
1941-1945	0.55	0.49	0.09	0.04
1946-1950	0.93	0.41	0.10	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.19	0.06	0.05
1956-1963	0.55	0.06	0.03	0.02
Sheppey R.D.				
1926-1930	1.37	0.66	0.44	0.11
1931-1935	0.88	0.75	0.36	0.09
1936-1940	0.29	0.31	0.12	0.02
1941-1945	0.61	0.42	0.19	0.05
1946-1950	0.94	0.32	0.20	0.07
1951-1955	0.97	0.21	0.17	0.02
1956-1963	0.47	0.04	0.06	0.02
Isle of Sheppey				
1926-1930	1.22	0.80	0.31	0.05
1931-1935	0.88	0.65	0.26	0.10
1936-1940	0.54	0.40	0.15	0.03
1941-1945	0.62	0.51	0.12	0.06
1946-1950	0.95	0.39	0.13	0.02
1951-1955	0.78	0.19	0.10	0.04
1956-1963	0.50	0.06	0.04	0.02

(b) MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

Mass Radiography Surveys were carried out in June and July 1963 and I am indebted to Dr. Rees-Jones, the Medical Director of the Service, for the figures in the table below.

The total number of persons who submitted themselves for Xray examination was 6,164 which represents about 30% of the Island population over 15 years of age. This figure was almost equally divided into males and females, 3,034 and 3,130 respectively and 1,993, almost one-third, were attending Mass Xray for the first time.

5 cases of active and 23 cases of inactive Tuberculosis were detected by the survey as well as 3 persons suffering from Cancer of the lung.

	Miniature Films taken			Active Inactive Tuberculosis				Cancer of Lung	
	Males	Females	Total	M	F	M	F	M	F
General Public -									
Queenborough	217	332	549	-	-	5	-	-	-
Sheerness	983	1,478	2,461	-	-	5	1	1	-
Sheppey Rural -									
Sheerness East	215	298	513	-	1	2	1	1	-
Minster	249	335	584	-	-	1	-	1	-
Leysdown	55	39	94	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastchurch	68	81	149	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industry -									
Queenborough	743	249	992	3	-	6	1	-	-
Sheerness	342	121	463	-	-	1	-	-	-
Schools -									
Pupils	141	155	359	-	1	-	-	-	-
Staff	21	42							

(c) I am indebted to Dr. Owen Clarke, the Chest Physician, for the following figures relating to sanatorium treatment and clinic attendances:-

(i) Institutions to which patients were admitted during 1963:-

Keycol Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	13
Lenham Chest Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	1
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	...	...	...	...	...	2

(ii) Patients from the Isle of Sheppey who attended the Chest Clinic during the year:-

	Men	Women	Children	
			B	G
Number of attendances made by new patients	...	...	...	...
	88	38	3	4
Attendances made by new contacts	47	52		104
Attendances made by old patients	325	202	8	8
Attendances made by old contacts	16	23		82

VENEREAL DISEASE

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Rough⁵, Director of the Special Clinics held by the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, for the following figures relating to patients attending at the Rochester and Sheppey Clinics from the Isle of Sheppey during 1963:-

New patients:-

	Males	Females	Totals
Syphilis	...	...	...
	1 (3)	- (-)	1 (3)
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...
	15 (8)	3 (4)	18 (12)
Others	...	...	...
	20 (20)	4 (6)	24 (26)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1962)

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

I am indebted to the School Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children in the area of the North East Kent Divisional Executive which comprises the Boroughs of Faversham and Queenborough, the Urban Districts of Sheerness and Sittingbourne & Milton, and the Rural Districts of Sheppey and Swale:-

1. Routine Medical Inspections:-

Number of pupils inspected	...	...	4,956	(5,631)
Physical condition satisfactory	...	...	4,953	(5,629)
Physical condition unsatisfactory	...	...	3	(2)

2. Number of Special Inspections ... 197 (217)

Number of Re-Inspections	1,858	(2,511)
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3. Number found to require treatment ... 798 (915)

4. Infestation with Vermin -

(a) Total number of examinations of pupils in schools by the school nurse or other authorised persons	10,158	(8,308)
---	-----	-----	--------	---------

(b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	103	(68)
--	-----	-----	-----	------

(c) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54) (2), Education Act, 1944	8	(18)
--	-----	-----	---	------

(Figures in brackets relate to 1962)

5. TREATMENT OF PUPILS

(i) Minor Ailments (Excluding Uncleanliness)No. of cases
treated

(a) SKIN

Ringworm -	(i) Scalp	...	...	..	{-}
	(ii) Body	...	...	-	{-}

Scabies	- (-)
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Impetigo	- (-)
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Other skin diseases	- (-)
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

(b) OTHER

Eye defects	...	...	...	...	3 (-)
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to Hospital)					

Ear defects	11 (-)
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	12 (15)
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, etc.,)					

(ii) Defective Vision and Squint (Excluding Eye diseases
treated as Minor Ailments)No. of cases
treated

(a) Errors of Refraction (including squint)	1,051 (1,061)
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------------

(b) Other defects or diseases of the eyes (excluding those recorded in (i))	2 (-)
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

(c) Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	407 (529)
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------

(Figures in brackets relate to 1962)

6. DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:-

(a)	At Periodic Inspections	...	...	3,893	(3,860)
(b)	As specials	...	...	268	(378)
Number found to require treatment		...	...	2,541	(2,705)
Number offered treatment		...	...	2,285	(2,531)
Number actually treated		...	...	1,408	(1,462)
Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment		...	...	7,641	(6,462)

Half days devoted to:-

(a)	Periodic (School) Inspections	...	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	(32)
(b)	Treatment	...	1,108	(846 $\frac{1}{2}$)

Fillings:-

(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	3,615	(2,809)
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	978	(771)

Number of Teeth filled:-

(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	3,135	(2,507)
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	835	(645)

Extractions:-

(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	646	(630)
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	1,453	(2,047)

Administration of general anesthetics for extraction		928	(1,006)
--	--	-----	-----	-----	---------

Other operations:-

(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	1,347	(614)
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	548	(536)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1962)

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

1963

Mayor:

Alderman R. D. Sharrock, J.P.

Deputy-Mayor:

Alderman Mrs. M. Dobner

Aldermen:

Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

H. G. Harris

Councillors:

J. W. N. Bromley
H. C. Carter
M. B. A. Dives
W. Flanagan
W. F. Keohane
G. H. Lerpiniere
L. V. Marchington
H. W. Newbury
H. F. Quaintance
J. W. Songhurst
R. G. Stickings
E. J. White

Health Committee

Chairman:

W. Flanagan

Councillors:

Ald. R. D. Sharrock, J.P.
Ald. Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.
J. W. N. Bromley
H. C. Carter
M. B. A. Dives
W. F. Keohane
L. V. Marchington
H. W. Newbury
H. F. Quaintance
J. W. Songhurst
R. G. Stickings
E. J. White

Town Clerk:

P. I. Warters

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:

A. Healy

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Queenborough Town Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1963.

The population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1963 showed an increase of 20 over the previous year and was 3,100.

The corrected birth rate was 24.6 as compared with 18.2 for England & Wales, the number of births being 70.

There were 38 deaths registered and this gave a corrected death rate slightly higher than that for the whole country, 13.5 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 12.2. Three of the deaths were of infants under one year of age and the Infant Death rate for the year was therefore higher than usual although the average rate over a period of years is still satisfactory even when compared with the new record low rate of 20.9 for the whole country in 1963.

Although the rest of the Island suffered from a Measles epidemic in the summer, the Borough escaped this and there was little infectious disease during the year.

I should like to thank your Surveyor & Public Health Inspector, Mr. Healy, for his ready co-operation at all times, and I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water	5) 1,103
Land	1,098	

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 662 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General
for mid-1963 3,100

This figure is 20 more than the 1962 estimate. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 32 in 1963.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	1,019
RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1963)	...	...	...	£204,897
SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	£760

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	39 (35)	26 (35)	65 (70)
Illegitimate	1 (2)	4 (2)	5 (4)
Totals	40 (37)	30 (37)	70 (74)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population	22.6 (24.0)
Corrected rate	24.6 (24.5)
Rate for England & Wales	18.2 (18.0)

The number of births registered was again fairly high, 70 as compared with 74 in 1962 and this was only the seventh time the number has reached the 70's in the past 40 years.

Although the crude rate was slightly less than the year before the corrected rate was 24.6 as compared with 18.2 for England & Wales.

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS ... 5 (4)

This is 7.1 per cent of total live births.

4. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	14.1 (0.0)	17.3 (18.1)	
Rate for England & Wales			

5. INFANT DEATHS 3 (1)

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births	42.9 (13.5)
Rate for England & Wales	20.9 (21.6)
Number of legitimate infant deaths	2 (1)
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	1 (0)
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	2 (1)
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	2 (1)
Number of peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under 1 week combined)	3 (1)

6. MATERNAL DEATHS Nil

(Figures in brackets relate to 1962)

7. DEATHS	Males	Females	Total
	19 (18)	19 (17)	38 (35)
Crude rate per 1,000 population		12.3	(11.4)
Corrected rate		13.5	(12.7)
Rate for England & Wales		12.2	(11.9)

38 deaths were registered during the year, 2 above the average of recent years. 19 were males and 19 females and the average age was

66.1 (68.4 in 1962)
 62.2 (69.4) for the males
 70.0 (67.2) for the females

but if deaths of infants were excluded then the average at death would be

72 for all deaths
 69.5 for males
 74 for females

Details of causes are given in tables II and III but 30 of the 38 fell into the three main groups viz.,

- 6 - Cancer (11 in 1962)
- 16 - Heart disease and associated conditions (13)
- 8 - Respiratory diseases (7)

One death was caused by a road accident but none by accidents in the home.

8. INFANT MORTALITY

There were three deaths of infants under one year of age and the rate per 1,000 live births was therefore much higher than usual; since 1951 however the average for this rate has been 21.1 which is almost identical to the national rate for 1963.

Details of the infant deaths are given in the following table:-

TABLE I

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Pneumonia	M	38 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Antepartum Asphyxia Breech delivery Atelectasis of lungs ...	M	5 minutes	Hospital	Hospital
Broncho pneumonia Mongolism	F	6½ months	-	Home

Table II

Male Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)										(1962 totals)		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks - 1 year		1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms
16 Diabetes
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system
18 Coronary disease, angina
20 Other heart disease
23 Pneumonia
24 Bronchitis
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases
Totals
	19	(18)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	18	4

Table FII
Female Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1962 totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
16 Diabetes	1	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
18 Coronary disease, angina	1	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
19 Hypertension with heart disease	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
20 Other heart disease	3	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease	2	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
23 Pneumonia	2	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
24 Bronchitis	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
33 Motor vehicle accidents	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
34 All other accidents	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	19	(17)	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	10

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. There was again little infectious disease and although Measles was prevalent in other parts of the Island, there was no epidemic in the Borough and only 12 cases occurred.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and these were of the usual mild type; there were no cases of Whooping Cough.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred, the same as the year before, but no deaths were caused by this disease.

Table IV shows the age distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year:-

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Age groups										
		Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	12	2	1	2	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pul. Tuberculosis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Totals	23	2	1	2	1	2	11	-	-	-	2	2

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1962, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification:-

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1962)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1962)
Scarlet Fever	6	(4)	2	4	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	12	(6)	4	8	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	2	(1)	2	-	-	1	(2)
Erysipelas	1	(-)	1	-	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2	(2)	2	-	1	-	(1)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals ...	23	(15)	11	12	1	1	(3)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1963, both pulmonary; they were males aged 55 and 62. Two cases were also notified the year before but only 10 cases have occurred in the past 10 years. There were no deaths from the disease.

A summary of the Tuberculosis Register is shown in Table VI below:-

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1963 ...	13	7	2	-	22
New notifications ...	2	-	-	-	2
Transfers from other districts ...	1	2	-	-	3
Restored to Register after transfer to other district ...	-	1	-	-	1
Deaths due to Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on register but not due to Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district in 1963 ...	-	2	-	-	2
Number of cases remaining on register, 31st December, 1963 ...	16	8	2	-	26

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

In all the following tables the figures of vaccinations and immunisations in 1963 have been supplied by the County Medical Officer. Other figures in the columns 'totals now vaccinated or immunised' and all percentages of age groups are my estimates based on actual figures for previous years:-

(a) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Vaccinated in 1963		Total now vaccinated 3 injections or doses
	3rd Dose (Salk & Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)	
1963	-	5	5
1962	-	43	54
'57-'61	4	14	222
'43-'56	-	-	614
Before 1943	1	1	

It is estimated from these figures that over three-quarters of children aged 1-6 inclusive have now been vaccinated by 3 injections or oral doses and a similar proportion of older children and teenagers is also immune.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1963	Re-inforcing Inoculation in 1963	Total number immunised at end of 1963
1963	23	-	23
1962	37	2	65
1961	2	8	54
1960	1	4	44
1959	-	-	35
'54-'58	-	15	212
'49-'53	-	2	237

Over 80% of all children aged 1-4 inclusive have been immunised and for school children the proportion is estimated to be just as satisfactory.

(c) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Year of Birth	Number immunised in 1963	Total number immunised at end of 1963
1963	23	23
1962	37	65
1961	2	54
1960	1	44
1959	-	36
'54-'58	-	109

Over 80% of children aged 1-4 inclusive have also been vaccinated against Whooping Cough and the number immunised during the first year of life was satisfactory.

d) Smallpox Vaccination

The County Medical Officer is no longer able to supply complete smallpox vaccination figures.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The estimated total consumption of water increased from 73 million gallons to 89.2 million gallons mainly due to further demands made by industry. This figure represents a total consumption of 78 gallons per head per day and is apportioned as follows, domestic 35 gallons/head/day and non-domestic (metered) 43 gallons/head/day. In the past ten years water consumption has more than doubled, the total in 1953 being $33\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons.

47 samples of treated water were taken by the Water Board from the Rushenden Pumping Station with only one unsatisfactory result. This source of supply has a natural fluoride content of less than 0.1 p.p.m.

The whole of the borough is supplied by public water mains direct to the houses.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls in South Street and Chalk Wharf. It is stored at these points and released with the ebb tide by manually operated valves and this discharge of untreated sewage is acknowledged to be most unsatisfactory and nuisances can be caused in the Creek and in the vicinity of the outfalls.

Investigations were made during the year to ascertain if it would be possible for the district to seek its own solution to this problem. This was in due course not recommended so it is now almost certain that the borough will participate in the joint scheme subject to satisfactory financial arrangements.

3. SCHOOLS SANITATION

The sanitary arrangements at the Schools are satisfactory.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL

A temporary site at the end of Borough Road is being used for controlled tipping until the acquisition of a new site in the Rushenden area has been completed.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There is one centrally situated public convenience providing accommodation and washing facilities for both sexes and a second similar convenience is in process of erection on the Harbour front.

6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

There were no disinfections after infectious disease and neither were there any disinfestations against vermin.

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Ditches were treated regularly during the spring and summer months with an oily preparation to destroy mosquito larvae.

8. RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations by rats	...	...	...	14
Number of infestations by mice	...	...	...	26
Number treated by local authority	...	...	...	40

9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following figures show building progress during 1963 and since the end of the war:-

	During 1963	Total built since the war
Council houses:-		
Completed	29	265
Under construction ...	14	-
Private enterprise:-		
Completed	-	8
Under construction ...	1	

2. At the end of the year there were 90 applicants on the Council's waiting list. The following are details:-

Queenborough residents in rooms	20
in flats or houses ...	42
Living outside Queenborough in rooms ...	11
in flats or houses ...	17

3. The erection of 8 pensioners' bungalows, 5 bedsitters, warden's house and communal room which will be incorporated with 12 existing pensioners' bungalows was begun during 1963 and made good progress.

4. Demolition Orders were made on 7 houses, Nos. 33, 35 and 39 High Street, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Jubilee Cottages and The Bungalow, Rushenden Hill. Closing Orders were made on Nos. 51 and 63 High Street. Undertakings to carry out repairs were given by owners of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Swale Cottages but no offers being made by the owners of 18 High Street and Nos. 1 and 2 Violet Cottages, the Council purchased these three houses under the provisions of Section 17(2) of the Housing Act, 1957.

5. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below:-

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	-
Number of houses included in areas made during the year	...	...	...	-

Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	7
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	3
Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	6
Houses closed under Sections 17(3) and 26	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	3

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	...	12
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice	...	...	...	-
Housing Act, 1957 - formal notice - Section 9 and 16	...	...	...	-
Houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-

Unfit houses in temporary use

Under Section 48	1
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Purchase of houses by agreement

In Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	-
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Improvement Grants

Number of applications approved	...	...	...	15
Total cost	...	...	...	£6,311
Total grants made	...	...	...	£3,258

Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	-
Undertakings by Landlord after service of Form J	...	...	...	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	-
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	...	...	...	-

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

There are no producers in the district but twelve distributors retail the following designations:-

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

2. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. Nine premises are registered for its sale and all retail pre-packed well-known makes. There are also two itinerant vendors who visit the district regularly during the summer.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections are made of butchers' shops, factory canteens and other food preparing places.

No foods were found to be unfit for human consumption but when meat is condemned it is stained with naphthalene green and sent to the Glue & Chemical Works for processing, whilst tinned and other foods are buried on the Council's tip.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

				Premises Inspections	
Ice Cream, sale and storage	...	...	...	6	7
Sausages, manufacture	...	...	...	3	9

(b) 33 inspections were made of 34 other food premises, an analysis of which, by type of business, appears below:-

Butchery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
General stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmonger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Baker and confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

5. FISH FRYING

There is now only one fish frying establishment and this is always clean and well kept.

6. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

By courtesy of Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year:-

Batter Mix	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chopped Pork Roll	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Emulsion of Acriflavine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
English Cheddar	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Extract of Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Formaline and Mint Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Orange Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Seafood Dressing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Softee Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Starch Reduced Crispbread	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Table Cream, Lemon Flavour	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

All the above samples were satisfactory.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

in respect of the year 1963 for the

Borough of Queenborough

PART I OF THE ACT:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	-	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ...	12	16	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	3	-	-
Totals ...	13	19	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found -

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other offences ...	-	-	-	-
Total ...	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other processes	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX A

Visits and Re-visits during 1963

Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factories and other premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Public Health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1963

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Wall plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1963

Chairman:
H. A. Snook, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:
J. J. Coppins, B.E.M.

Councillors:

W. Baron
W. G. Baxter
B. J. Buckwell
W. C. Butterworth
A. G. Coats, J.P.
A. H. R. Copland
F. W. Roalfe
Mrs. E. Tiltman
J. G. Ward
H. L. Wise

Health Committee

Chairman:
B. J. Buckwell

Councillors:

A. H. R. Copland
F. W. Roalfe
H. A. Snook, J.P.
Mrs. E. Tiltman
J. G. Ward

Clerk of the Council:
J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Senior Public Health Inspector:
D. E. Jacob, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheerness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1963.

For the first time since 1958 the Registrar-General in his mid-year estimate of population allowed Sheerness an increase, from 13,620 by 100 to 13,720. The excess of births over deaths during 1963 was 73.

The higher birth rate of 1962 was maintained in 1963 and 275 births, although 3 less than the year before, gave a corrected birth rate of 22.6 as compared with 18.2 for the whole country.

The number of deaths registered was 202 and was 13 higher than the recent average for the town - 189. The corrected death rate per 1,000 of the population was slightly higher than that for England & Wales, 13.2 as compared with 12.2. The deaths of infants under one year of age was the highest since 1958 and the rate per 1,000 live births was 29.1 as compared with 20.9 for England & Wales. Taken over the past 10 years however this rate for Sheerness is only 21.5 which is most satisfactory.

Scarlet Fever to a small extent early in the year and then Measles during the summer months were the most prevalent infectious diseases but an outbreak of mumps in November and December was most disconcerting as a fair proportion of older children and adults were attacked. The only cases of food poisoning concerned a family outbreak with no outside risk.

A small amount of housing was dealt with, 17 houses being represented, 7 individually and 10 in 3 areas but it has not yet been found possible to complete the survey of older houses and to estimate their possible life.

I would like to thank Mr. Jacob, the Senior Public Health Inspector, for the able manner in which he has performed his duties and also the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA 943 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General
for mid-1963 13,720

This figure is 100 more than the 1962 estimate.

3. NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES 4,708

4. RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1963) ... £390,031

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE (estimated) £1,565

SECTION II
VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	116 (122)	130 (128)	246 (250)
Illegitimate	15 (17)	14 (11)	29 (28)
Totals	131 (139)	144 (139)	275 (278)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population	20.0 (20.4)
Corrected rate	22.6 (20.8)
Rate for England & Wales	18.2 (18.0)

275 births were registered, 3 less than the year before but slightly above the recent average. The crude rate per 1,000 population was 20.0 and the corrected rate of 22.6 was well above the national figure of 18.2.

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS ... 29 (28)

This was 10.5% of live births, higher than in 1962 and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the recent average. In 1945 it was 11.1 but except for 1962 and 1963 has usually been about 6%.

4. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5 (5)	4 (2)	9 (7)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	31.7 (24.6)		
Rate for England & Wales	17.3 (18.1)		

5. INFANT DEATHS 8 (3)

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births	29.1 (10.8)
Rate for England & Wales	20.9 (21.6)
Number of legitimate infant deaths	7 (3)
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	1 (0)
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	5 (1)
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	4 (0)
Number of peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under 1 week combined)	13 (7)

6. MATERNAL DEATHS Nil

(Figures in brackets relate to 1962)

7. DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
	100 (106)	102 (77)	202 (183)
Crude rate per 1,000 population			14.7 (13.4)
Corrected rate			13.2 (11.0)
Rate for England & Wales			12.2 (11.9)

There were 202 deaths in 1963, 19 more than in 1962 and only 3 less than the figure for 1961 which was the highest since the war. The crude rate per 1,000 of the population was 14.7, the previous highest being 14.6 in 1943 and 1961. Corrected for comparison with other districts however, the rate was 13.2 as compared with 12.2 for England & Wales. 100 were males and 102 females and the average age was

69.3 (70.1 in 1962)
 66.4 (68.5) for the males
 72.3 (72.4) for the females

but if deaths of infants and deaths of young people caused by accidents were excluded then the average at death would be

73.7 for all deaths
 70.5 for males
 76.8 for females

13 males lived to over 85 and the oldest was 96; 30 females lived to over 85 and one of them reached 100.

Details of causes are given in the following tables but 173 fell into five groups viz.,

- 31 - Cancer (36 in 1962)
- 101 - Heart disease and associated conditions (96)
- 28 - Respiratory diseases (32)
- 6 - Diabetes (2)
- 7 - All accidents (7)

Of the seven caused by accidents, three were road accidents whilst of the other four, two were due to falls (one from a diving board in the swimming pool) and two due to drowning when a tug capsized.

8. INFANT MORTALITY

Eight deaths of infants under one year of age occurred and the rate of 29.1 per 1,000 live births was above the average for the district viz., 21.5. For England & Wales this rate in 1963 was 20.9, a new low record.

TABLE I

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Cerebral haemorrhage Tentorial tear Breech delivery Prematurity	M	30 minutes	Hospital	Hospital
Asphyxia	M	5 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Atelectasis Haemolytic disease of newborn (Rh. incompatibility) ...	M	6 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Broncho pneumonia	F	20 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Meningitis Meningomyelocele and hydrocephalus	F	2 weeks	Hospital	Hospital
Hydrocephalus due to chronic basal meningitis Prematurity	F	1 month	Hospital	Hospital
Broncho pneumonia Congenital aortic stenosis	F	2 months	Home	Home
Fallot's tetralogy Congenital lung cyst (operation)	F	5 months	Hospital	Hospital

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1962 totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 and over
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
2 Tuberculosis, other	2	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	(8)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	(10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
16 Diabetes	5	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
18 Coronary disease, angina	3	(10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
19 Hypertension with heart disease	20	(24)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
20 Other heart disease	3	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
21 Other circulatory disease	17	(13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
23 Pneumonia	5	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
24 Bronchitis	2	(9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	8	(10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
31 Congenital malformations	2	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases	1	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
33 Motor vehicle accidents	8	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
34 All other accidents	3	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
35 Suicide	3	(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Totals	100	(106)	3	-	-	1	4	-	2	6	18	27	39

TABLE III

Female Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1962 totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	2	(4)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	1	(7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	13	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16 Diabetes ...	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	(14)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	15	(10)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20 Other heart disease ...	17	(10)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease ...	3	(8)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
22 Influenza ...	3	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
23 Pneumonia ...	11	(7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
24 Bronchitis ...	3	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	3	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
31 Congenital malformations ...	3	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases	8	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
33 Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
34 All other accidents ...	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals ...	102	(77)	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	11	17	63

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

313 cases of infectious disease were notified and an epidemic of Measles during May to August and flaring up again at the end of the year accounted for 251 of these. The 35 cases of Scarlet Fever were all of very mild type and occurred mainly in the first half of the year.

There was very little Whooping Cough, 10 cases, and these were spread over the year.

One case of Dysentery and four of Food Poisoning occurred, the latter disease involving an entire family. No food specimens were available and no pathogenic organisms were discovered in specimens from the patients so the actual cause was not traced. The source of infection however was almost certainly meat that had been haphazardly stored and then re-heated.

Of the infectious diseases that are not notifiable, Mumps was very prevalent during November and December.

13 deaths were classified to all forms of Pneumonia, 2 to pulmonary and 2 to non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Table IV below shows infectious diseases notified during the year by age groups:-

TABLE IV

Disease				Total	Age groups									
					Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	...	...	35	-	1	-	3	2	27	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	10	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Measles	...	...	251	8	26	29	39	32	109	5	2	1	-	-
Pneumonia	...	...	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	6
Erysipelas	...	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	...	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	...	...	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pul. Tuberculosis	...	...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Totals	...	313	9	29	31	46	35	138	7	5	2	5	6	

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1962, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification:-

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1962)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1962)
Scarlet Fever	35	(12)	17	18	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	10	(2)	2	8	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	251	(4)	125	126	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	8	(13)	5	3	-	13	(12)
Erysipelas	1	(1)	1	-	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	1	(5)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	4	(-)	1	3	-	1	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3	(2)	2	1	2	2	(-)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	-	(1)	-	-	-	2	(-)
Totals ...	313	(42)	153	160	2	17	(12)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Three pulmonary cases of Tuberculosis were notified as compared with 2 in 1962 and 3 in 1961, but still well below the average of 9 of the past 10 years. Two deaths occurred as compared with none and 3 in 1962 and 1961. One was a man of 50 who had been on the register for 16 years and the other a woman of 61 who was originally notified in 1926.

Although no new cases of Non-Pulmonary T.B. were notified, two cases occurred but died before notification; these were a man of 80 (miliary) and a man of 40 (meningitis) and were the first recorded deaths from this form of the disease since 1953.

A summary of the Register is given below and shows rather higher figures than usual of cases transferred into and out of the district etc., and this is because the periodical check with the Chest Clinic was made during the year:-

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1963 ...	94	51	3	8	156
New notifications	2	1	-	-	3
Cases not notified before death ...	-	-	2	-	2
Transfers from other districts ...	4	2	-	-	6
Deaths due to Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2	-	4
Deaths of cases on register but not due to Tuberculosis	3	1	-	-	4
Removed from district or cannot be traced	24	15	1	5	45
Recovered	-	1	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1963 ...	72	36	2	3	113

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

In all the following tables the figures of vaccinations and immunisations in 1963 have been supplied by the County Medical Officer. Other figures in the columns 'totals now vaccinated or immunised' and all percentages of age groups are my estimates based on actual figures for previous years:-

(a) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Vaccination in 1963		Total now vaccinated 3 injections or doses
	3rd Dose (Salk & Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)	
1963	-	25	25
1962	19	112	152
'57-'61	24	28	997
'43-'56	7	1	2,440

From these figures it is estimated that nearly three-quarters - 73% - of all children aged 1-6 inclusive have been vaccinated by 3 injections or oral doses and that a similar proportion of older children and teenagers are also immunised.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1963	Re-inforcing Inoculation in 1963	Total number immunised at end of 1963
1963	92	-	92
1962	111	2	206
1961	8	23	178
1960	1	8	219
1959	-	5	212
'54-'58	5	55	1,041
'49-'53	-	5	1,284

It is estimated from these figures that more than three-quarters of all children aged 1-4 inclusive have been immunised and amongst older children up to 15 years of age the proportion may be even higher.

(c) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Year of Birth	Number immunised in 1963	Total number immunised at end of 1963
1963	92	92
1962	111	205
1961	8	196
1960	1	216
1959	-	251
'54-'58	4	450

As the majority of children now are vaccinated against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria with the same injection, the numbers immune to these two disease keep pace with each other and therefore over three-quarters of young children are also immune to Whooping Cough.

(d) Smallpox Vaccination

The County Medical Officer is no longer able to supply complete smallpox vaccination figures.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

Major improvements to the supply within the district arose through the scraping and concrete lining of the trunk main bringing supplies to Sheerness and thus eliminating extensive complaints of dirty water arising from disturbance of accumulated scale at peak demand periods.

The laying of a 6" diameter P.V.C. pipe from Halfway Road to Seager Road has greatly increased flows in the eastern end of the Marine Town area.

The estimated total consumption has increased to 195.3 m.g. by a small increase in domestic consumption, but mainly due to the increased industrial demand. This figure represents a total consumption of 39 g.h.d. based on resident population and is apportioned as follows, domestic - 35 g.h.d. and non-domestic (metered consumption) 4 g.h.d.

The whole of the area is supplied by public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of 13 houses in the Harbour Estate (formerly H.M. Dockyard) which have a piped supply from the Estate's own bore.

Unsatisfactory samples of water taken from the Harbour Estate Supply were found to be due to contamination by birds obtaining access to one of the storage tanks, but when this was prevented and the tank cleaned out, no further trouble was experienced.

		No. of samples	No. of samples in which were found	
			Coliform bacilli	Faecal coli
Untreated	...	94	5	1
Treated	...	68	15	12
Private Sources -				
Treated	...	52	23	14

These sources of supply have a natural fluoride content of

Trinity Road - 0.3 p.p.m.
Sheerness East - 0.4 p.p.m.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The canal station deals with sewage from the Marine Town area, the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estates. The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, whence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide. Sewage from Blue Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of the lifting stations or at the main pumping station, but is not otherwise treated.

The discharge is taken to a point below low water mark in the River Medway, 1,350 feet from the shore. Periodical inspections of the beaches have shown no evidence of sewage being washed onto the foreshore and no complaints of such fouling have been received.

A joint sewage disposal scheme for the three island authorities is still being considered.

One of the new industries discharging lauric acid into the drainage system caused precipitation in the sewers and in the screens at the West Minster pumping station. The firm was required to treat the effluent to a satisfactory standard before discharging into the sewer.

. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse disposal by controlled tipping is undertaken jointly by the Sheerness U.D.C. and the Sheppey R.D.C. and the tip is situated at Windmill Creek in the Rural District.

The special collection of refuse at intervals of about six weeks for large items of discarded furniture, bedding etc., continued during the year and has prevented any increase in the depositing of such material on vacant sites; in spite of this additional service to the routine bin collections some dumping still takes place.

. SCHOOLS SANITATION

The use of the former H.M. Dockyard School in the Harbour state has ceased. The defects in the structure of the Church of England School have increased, requiring further shoring of part of the building and necessitating the continued use of the Methodist Church premises in the Broadway. It is anticipated that the school building programme should complete a new school on St. George's Avenue for use within 2 years.

5. SWIMMING POOL

There is one swimming pool open to the general public and this is owned and maintained by the Council, forming part of the sea front amenities. It is 72 ft. wide, 150 ft. long and has a capacity of 310,000 gallons. The bath is emptied and cleansed during the winter and filled with sea water at the start of the season. Sea water is also used for regular topping-up. The pool is open from Whitsun to September approximately and on an average 30-40,000 persons use the pool during this period, and during 1963 it was estimated that about 40,000 persons used the pool.

The method of purification used is pressure filtration, aeration and breakpoint chlorination. Panacide sodium technical solution is used as an algicide and sodium carbonate for maintaining a satisfactory pH value. Regular chlorine residual tests are undertaken to check that purification is operating satisfactorily. 14 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory.

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Marine Parade conveniences have continued in use and have been renovated as the scheme to replace them with new premises has not been commenced.

Provision was made for the reconstruction of the roof lights to the Gents' toilets near the Pavilion Gardens.

The public conveniences in Wood Street were closed and consideration of their future use was deferred pending extension of the Rose Street car park.

The convenience in West Street, Blue Town was reconditioned.

Turnstiles were removed from those conveniences open all the year and before the 1964 summer season all turnstiles will have been removed.

7. LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The lethal chambers supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. and maintained by the Council for the destruction of sick and aged animals, were used for 78 cats and 96 dogs during the year, 6 more than in 1962. 6 of these were strays brought in by the Police.

8. CAMPING SITES

There are three camping sites in the Urban District. All are for holiday use only, their use being limited to the months March to October. Proposals for extensions to one site were approved which will increase its capacity from 82 to 120 caravans.

Progress in improving amenities to the sites was made during the year to comply with the licences granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 within the time limit of 5 years allowed by the Council.

All the sites have flush toilets with connection to the Council's sewer, mains water supply and weekly refuse collections by the Council.

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Five premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

(b) The following are details of 58 disinfestations:-

Fleas	...	...	...	...	10
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	15
Bugs	...	...	...	...	1
Silverfish	...	...	...	...	1
Ants	...	...	...	...	26
Wasps	...	...	...	...	2
Lice	...	...	...	...	2
Earwigs	...	...	...	...	1

10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

The systematic and regular treatment of breeding places with larvicidal oil was carried out this year as in previous years and no serious nuisances were reported. Breeding places on private land can occur in tins, jars etc., which retain a small quantity of rainwater and accumulations of such rubbish should be cleaned up.

11. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface infestations:-

Number of properties found to be infested after complaint or survey by Rodent Operator:-

By rats	...	...	...	...	...	79
By mice	...	...	...	...	...	75

In dealing with these surface infestations 83 dwelling-houses and 28 other premises were inspected as a result of notification and 180 dwellings and 98 other premises in the course of survey under the Act and a further 23 dwellings and 44 other premises inspected when visited primarily for other purposes.

(b) Sewer treatment:-

Two treatments of the Council's sewers were carried out during the year in May and December.

The first treatment showed 69 manholes where bait was taken out of 94 manholes baited; baiting continued at these 69 manholes until no further takes were recorded.

The second treatment showed 37 manholes where bait was taken from 72 manholes baited and as in the previous treatment baiting of these 37 manholes continued until feeding on the baits ceased.

A total of 1,211 visits and revisits were made in these inspections, surveys and treatments.

12. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

13. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No proposals were received and no work commenced on the proposed Steel Works to be situated in Well Marsh, Blue Town, referred to in last year's report.

Other industrial development in the district has not caused any atmospheric pollution problems. Occasionally some odour from the Isle of Grain Oil Refinery and Abbott Laboratories has been noticeable in parts of the district during weather conditions of temperature inversion but these occasions have been infrequent and of short duration.

14. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was necessary to take proceedings in the case of one old person who was not receiving proper care and attention and who was living in insanitary conditions. She was removed to a Kent County Council Home at Cranbrook.

15. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined during the year:-

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Swimming pool water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cooked cockles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. Provision of accommodation

The remaining 14 houses on the No. 7 site in New Road and Nelson Close were completed in the year. Unfortunately it was not possible for a beginning to be made on the construction of the further scheme for housing aged persons but it is anticipated work on this will commence early in 1964. A further block of 6 flats is proposed for Blue Town on land to be acquired in Terminus Road adjacent to Dolphin House.

At the end of the year the Council acquired land in Sheppey Court Marshes for the first stage in the development of this area for housing and plans were in hand for approximately 140 housing units.

2. Housing needs

The demand for aged persons' accommodation increased when the success of the first scheme was more widely appreciated.

The Council continued to receive a demand for housing from persons in rooms and in flats, particularly furnished flats and in addition from persons in decontrolled tenancies threatened with eviction.

Housing of key workers continued to be given consideration and as industry expands this need is expected to continue.

The Council continue to use 46 prefabricated houses but the extension of time allowed for their occupation will expire in 1965.

3. Slum clearance

A survey of part of Mile Town, where a commencement of redevelopment is anticipated, was carried out and included 21 domestic premises and 10 other premises; of this number 3 domestic premises were declared a Clearance Area and together with an adjoining premises made a Compulsory Purchase Order. Negotiations for purchase by agreement were made and as a result confirmation of the Order was not sought.

Two other Clearance Areas were declared, one containing five houses for which a Compulsory Purchase Order was made and one of two houses the subject of a Clearance Order. One objection to the C.P.O. was received and an Inquiry on this Order was held early in 1964.

Individual Demolition Orders were made on six houses and part of one house was subject to a Closing Order.

The properties in the Clearance Areas were:-

Hope Street: Nos. 23, 25 and 27

Rose Street: Nos. 86, 88, 90, 92 and 94

Marine Parade: Nos. 97 and 99

The individual Demolition Orders were made on:-

Railway Road: No. 16

Wood Street: No. 19A

Montague Road: No. 18 and 20

Victoria Street: Nos. 1 and 3

The Closing Order applied to a part of No. 17 Broadway.

The following demolitions were completed:-

In Clearance Areas

Rose Street: Nos. 14, 16, 18, 24, 26, 28 and 30

Not in Clearance Areas

High Street: Nos. 224 and 111

Hare Street: No. 1

) Previously reported as closed.

Demolition Orders

Victoria Street: Nos. 1 and 3

Wood Street: No. 19A

Railway Road: No. 16

At the end of the year only one family occupying No. 36 Rose Street awaited rehousing from a confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order; all rehousing from Demolition and Closing Orders was completed during the year.

Owing to the retirement of the Additional Public Health Inspector in October 1962 and the Council's decision not to make further appointment for the time being, it was not possible to make much progress with the housing survey referred to in last year's report to ascertain the condition of the considerable number of pre-1914 houses in the town and the extent to which they lack amenities. The first part of this survey is intended to list those properties considered below an improvement standard and to ascertain whether any further properties should be represented for slum clearance.

4. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is summarised below:-

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	7
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Number of families displaced from Clearance Areas	...	...	...	5
Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	10

Houses not in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	6
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	7
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 17 of Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	1
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	7

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	...	128
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice	...	...	...	-
Housing Act, 1957 - formal notice	...	...	...	-

Purchase of houses by agreement

Houses in Clearance Areas (not confirmed Clearance Orders or C.P.O.'s) purchased in the year	-
--	-----	-----	-----	---

Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	-
Undertakings by landlords	...	...	...	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	-
No. of Certificates cancelled	...	...	...	1

The Council approved 49 applications for improvement grants the total cost of the works being £18,800 approximately and the grants totalled £7,500 approximately.

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Incidents of the contamination of food by foreign matter unfortunately continue to occur from time to time. One which resulted in successful legal proceedings concerned a cigarette end found inside a meat pie, an employee obviously disregarding specific requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations concerning the ban on smoking in food rooms. This case indicates the need of a sense of personal responsibility of food handlers and where there is indifference, improvement in premises, materials, cleansing procedures and the like cannot of themselves ensure the standard demanded by the consumer.

Premises in poor structural condition referred in last year's report continued to be used and whilst facilities for the staff to observe cleanliness were maintained and all food was prepacked on receipt, the need for new or reconstructed premises is a matter of urgent necessity.

2. MILK SUPPLY

There are 36 registered distributors of milk in the Urban District. As in former years the supply of milk to the town is from two large dairies, one in this district and the other in the adjoining Rural District, each pasteurising and bottling milk and also retailing sterilised milk.

24 samples of pasteurised and 18 of sterilised milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all these samples passed the prescribed tests. These results indicate the satisfactory treatment of these milk supplies.

Homogenised milk has not been introduced, no doubt due to the eye appeal of the "cream line".

One isolated complaint of contamination of a milk bottle was investigated and the dairy was cautioned. Without detracting from the dairy's responsibility, until the day of the non-returnable milk container, there is still a need to appeal to those who fail to rinse and return empty bottles promptly.

3. ICE CREAM

There is only one local manufacturer who produces a cold mix ice cream, all other supplies are produced out of the district. Forty-seven premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, these sell the products of manufacturers of national repute. In

addition, 4 mobile ice cream vans regularly visit the town. As in previous years the bacteriological sampling of ice cream was of bulk ice cream to check hygienic conditions at the point of sale. Of 20 samples taken 11 were grade 1, 4 grade 2, 3 grade 3 and 2 grade 4. Advice was given to retailers with grades 3 and 4 and further sampling indicated improvement.

4. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Meat supplies continue to be obtained mainly from wholesale supplies at Chatham and Canterbury. A satisfactory standard in transport and handling of the meat was maintained.

(b) The arrangements for disposal of condemned butchers' meat at the Sheppy Glue & Chemical Works after colouring with liquid acid green have continued as in previous years, other unsound foods are buried on the controlled refuse tip.

(c) There are no slaughterhouses or knackers' yards in the district.

(d) The following are details of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

Tinned fish	...	...	...	...	...	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	...	625 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...	...	630	lb.
Tinned vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	279 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Wet fish	...	...	...	...	...	280	lb.
Butchers' meat	...	...	...	...	...	59	lb.
Frozen fish	...	...	...	...	...	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Frozen meat	...	...	...	...	...	38 $\frac{1}{4}$	lb.
Frozen vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Frozen pies	...	...	...	...	...	21	lb.
Frozen miscellaneous foods	...	...	...	...	...	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Tinned soups	...	...	...	...	...	32	lb.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	7	lb.
Honey	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Tinned drinks	...	...	...	...	...	5	lb.
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...	...	69	lb.
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	3	lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Tinned pudding	...	...	...	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Pudding mixture	...	...	...	...	...	3	lb.
Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	11	lb.
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	1	pint
Sponge cakes	...	...	...	...	...	48	lb.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.

Most of the unsoundness in tinned foods arises through severe damage to tins causing leaking or damage to the interior lining allowing reaction between metal and the food content. No doubt damage by cardboard packing cases falling from vehicles or mechanised conveyor belts for handling goods in bulk is responsible for a large amount of this loss and not faulty canning.

Failure of refrigeration caused the loss of approximately $2\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. of frozen foods, the packages on defrosting being in an unsaleable condition.

Some tinned meats on the manufacturers' recommendations require refrigerated storage and on occasions from the quantity found to be blown or decomposing when opened one wonders whether these conditions are always fully maintained. The foods concerned are usually large cans of cooked ham and jellied veal.

5. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 93 inspections were made of the following premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

Premises Inspections

Ice Cream, manufacture storage & sale 	47	80
Preserved foods, manufacture ...	15	13
Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959		
Dairies 	1	49
Milk Distributors 	36	

(b) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below:-

Hotels, cafes, restaurants & snackbars 	38
Licensed premises & licensed clubs 	29
Groceries & general provisions 	41
Butchers 	14
Wet fish 	5
Fried fish 	6
Sweet manufacture 	1
Greengrocery 	17
Confectionery and sweets 	20
Bakeries 	2

211 inspections were made at these premises during the year.

6. FISH FRYING

The fish frying premises have been operated without nuisance and are well maintained. One premises was extended to include sale of frozen foods and freshly baked foods.

7. SHELLFISH

Three samples of shellfish were taken for bacteriological examination and none showed any pathogenic organisms. The local retailers were again reminded of the prohibition on sale of locally collected shellfish unless processed at an approved establishment and supplies sold locally were obtained from wholesalers out of the district.

Registration however does not prohibit collection of shellfish by persons only for their own consumption. Fortunately no notifications of infection from shellfish were received this year and the number of shellfish was no doubt reduced following the severe winter conditions. It is nevertheless necessary in view of cases of typhoid associated with eating of cockles in previous years to emphasize the risk from inadequate cooking or recontamination from hands, utensils or shells.

8. BAKEHOUSES

Only two bakeries continued to operate in the district, one primarily making meat pies and pastries, the second ceased baking at the end of the year and the bakery has closed, the supplies to this firm's retail shop in the town now coming from its main premises at Canterbury. A receiving and distributing depot of one bakery out of the district was closed, the retailing vans now working directly from the main bakery at Maidstone.

One fried fish shop has been extended and now produces cooked pastries and pies in a rotary electric oven.

9. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year:-

Antain Tablets	...	...	1	Meat Paste	...	...	...	1
Apricot Jam	...	...	1	Milk	...	...	...	12
Beef Steak with Gravy	...	...	1	Moist Brown Sugar	...	...	...	1
Bitter Beer	...	...	1	Neutradonna	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	1	Pork Brawn	...	...	...	1
Casserole Steak	...	...	1	Q.V.R.	...	...	...	1
Cheese, English Derby	...	...	1	Raspberries	...	...	...	1
Coffee Ice Cream	...	...	1	Redcurrant Jelly	...	...	...	1
Cream of Chicken Soup	...	...	1	Rice Krispies	...	...	...	1
Curry Powder	...	...	1	Rum	...	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	2	Savoury Duck	...	...	...	1
Dairy Cream	...	...	1	Seeded Raisins	...	...	...	1
Distilled Witch Hazel	...	...	1	Steak Pie	...	...	...	1
French Mustard	...	...	1	Syrup of Hypophosphites	...	...	...	1
Fresh Dairy Cream Devon	...	...	1	Table Jelly	...	...	...	1
Splits	...	...	1	Thick Sauce	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	1	Toasted Egg Rusks	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	2	Ulcannon	...	...	...	1
Instant Coffee	...	...	1	Victoria Plum Jam	...	...	...	1
Lancashire Cheese	...	...	1	Vodka	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	2	Whisky	...	...	...	2
Lemon	...	...	1					
Lemon Flavouring	...	...	1					

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Steak Pie	Consisted of a partly eaten pie and a cigarette filter tip. The latter had food particles adhering to it and the presence in it of nicotine suggested that it had been smoked.	Proceedings taken against Messrs. G. G. Baxter Ltd., Sarre, Kent, makers of the pie who were fined £5 plus £3. 3s. 0d. costs.
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SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961
in respect of the year 1963 for the
Urban District of Sheerness

PART I OF THE ACT:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	5	2	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ...	69	31	2	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	2	-	-
Totals ...	78	35	2	-

... Cases in which defects were found -

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	3	-	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences ...	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	5	6	-	1	-

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	19	-	-	-	-	-
Other processes	-	-	-	-	-	-

[illegible]

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1963

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Insufficient sanitary accommodation		...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped				...	...	...	1
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters repaired				...	...	...	12
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Chimney stacks repaired		...	...	...	...	...	5
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Wall plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1963

Chairman:

N. W. Ford, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Mrs. M. Bourbousson

Councillors:

D. C. Austin
 B. E. Bigg
 R. N. Bigg
 A. P. Dummott
 F. H. Purvis
 Mrs. N. Hodges
 G. Ingleton
 H. C. Love
 Miss E. M. Mills
 G. T. Parris, C.C.
 R. Ross Jones
 G. D. Thomsett

Health Committee

Chairman:

Mrs. M. Bourbousson

Councillors:

D. C. Austin
 R. N. Bigg
 N. W. Ford, J.P.
 Mrs. N. Hodges
 G. D. Thomsett
 H. C. Love
 Miss E. M. Mills

Clerk of the Council:

R. E. Gray, D.M.A., F.C.C.S.

Public Health Inspector:

T. E. Davies, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:

E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
 (relinquished office of P.H.I. on 31st March, 1963)

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheppey Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1963.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1963 was 10,840, 250 more than the year before.

189 births were registered, the highest figure since 1947 and the corrected rate per 1,000 population was 22.1 as compared with 18.2 for England & Wales. There were 150 deaths, the highest number ever recorded in the district but the corrected rate of 12.9 was not much higher than the rate of 12.2 for the whole country. Three of the 150 deaths were of infants under the age of 1 year and the infant mortality rate was 15.8 as compared with 20.9 for the country.

There was one large outbreak of Measles during the year but very little other infectious disease except for non-notifiableumps which was prevalent towards the end of the year.

There is now no slum clearance in the district in the generally accepted sense of the term and in the past few years the water supply has been augmented to an extent that has banished the fears that so commonly existed in the summer months, and now lack of main drainage is the most urgent public health problem to be tackled. Increased development such as in the Eastchurch Cliffs area pinpoints the inadequacy of the existing main drainage and creates serious conditions prejudicial to health. Whilst cesspool drainage and small domestic disposal works may be considered satisfactory for a rural population under normal conditions, the sudden influx of large numbers of holidaymakers renders these types of disposal entirely inadequate and in these conditions main drainage facilities are essential.

I would like to thank Mr. Davies, the Public Health Inspector, for the able manner in which he has performed his duties and also the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA 20,319 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated for mid-1963 by the
Registrar-General 10,840

This figure is 250 higher than the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 39.

3. NUMBER OF DWELLINGS IN THE AREA ... 3,851

4. RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1963) ... £357,736

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE £1,480

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	93 (82)	75 (78)	168 (160)
Illegitimate	13 (7)	8 (9)	21 (16)
Totals	106 (89)	83 (87)	189 (176)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population	17.4 (16.6)
Corrected rate	22.1 (17.6)
Rate for England & Wales	18.2 (18.0)

During the years immediately after the war the number of births was high, reaching 224 in 1947 although mainly varying from 183 to 187. In recent years the average has been 153 but rising with the population. The 189 registered in 1963 represents a higher number than ever before except for 1947 and gives a corrected birth rate of 22.1 as compared with 18.2 for England & Wales.

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS ... 21 (16)

This is 11.1 per cent of total live births.

4. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	2 (1)	- (2)	2 (3)
Illegitimate	- (-)	2 (-)	2 (-)

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	20.7 (16.8)
Rate for England & Wales	17.3 (18.1)

5. INFANT DEATHS 3 (7)

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births	15.8 (39.8)
Rate for England & Wales	20.9 (21.6)
Number of legitimate infant deaths	3 (7)
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	0 (0)
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	3 (5)
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	2 (5)
Number of peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under 1 week combined)	6 (8)

6. MATERNAL DEATHS Nil

(Figures in brackets relate to 1962)

7. DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
	83 (72)	67 (56)	150 (128)
Crude rate per 1,000 population			13.8 (12.1)
Corrected rate			12.9 (12.7)
Rate for England & Wales			12.2 (11.9)

In just the same way as births have risen with the population so also was the number of deaths higher than in any previous year. 150 were registered which gave a corrected death rate of 12.9, slightly higher than the 12.2 for the whole country. 83 were males and 67 females and the average age was

69.8 (66.5 in 1962)
 69.1 (68.8) for the males
 70.6 (63.5) for the females

but if deaths of infants were excluded then the average at death would be

71.7 for all deaths
 72.0 for males
 74.0 for females

Details of causes are given in tables II and III but 123 of the 150 fell into the three main groups viz.,

34 - Cancer (33 in 1962)
 69 - Heart disease and associated conditions (57)
 20 - Respiratory diseases (17)

Nearly 1 in 10 of the male deaths was caused by cancer of the lung.

3 deaths were caused by accidents and the Registrar-General has allocated 1 to motor vehicle accidents and 2 to other accidents. I am confident an error has been made here and that none was due to motor vehicles. The two female deaths were due one to burns following a woman's nightdress catching alight and the other to drowning in a pond near to a child's home on a farm. The male accident occurred on board a tug and the death due to "operations of war" was a man of 63, the cause a shrapnel wound. The death allocated to "other infective and parasitic diseases" was due to Infective Hepatitis.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were three deaths of infants under the age of one year, the rate per 1,000 births being 15.8 as compared with 20.9 for England & Wales. The average rate for the district over the last 10 years is 22.9.

Details are given in the following table; the two infants who died after 12 and 30 hours were twins:-

TABLE I

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Prematurity (2 lb. 13½ ozs.)	F	12½ hours	Home	Hospital
Prematurity (2 lb. 8 ozs.)	M	30½ hours	Home	Hospital
Congenital hydrocephalus Meningomyelocele	F	3 weeks	Hospital	Hospital

Table II
Male Deaths by cause and age

Cause	Total (all ages)	(1962 totals)	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
9 Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	(4)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	(12)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	10	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	(6)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	18	(16)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19 Hypertension with heart disease	1	(-)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20 Other heart disease ...	7	(7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease ...	4	(4)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
22 Influenza ...	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
23 Pneumonia ...	5	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
24 Bronchitis ...	8	(7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	(-)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
31 Congenital malformations ...	1	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases	8	(4)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
33 Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
34 All other accidents ...	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
36 Homicide and operations of war	1	(-)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals ...	83	(72)	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	9	12	20	37

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. 252 cases of infectious disease were notified during 1963 and 205 of these were Measles which occurred mainly during July and August. There were more cases of Scarlet Fever than usual and 21 occurred sporadically. Only one Whooping Cough was notified.

It was not possible to trace the organisms responsible for the individual case of food poisoning but there were only two people at risk.

The Registrar-General allocated 6 deaths to all forms of pneumonia but there were no deaths from any other infectious disease.

Amongst the infectious diseases that are not notifiable, mumps was very prevalent during the last two or three months of the year.

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Age groups										
		Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	21	-	-	2	4	2	12	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	205	8	14	31	24	31	91	5	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	4
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Pul. Tuberculosis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Non-Pul. Tuberculosis ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	252	8	14	33	29	33	104	6	1	10	9	5

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1962, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification:-

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1962)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1962)
Scarlet Fever	21	(2)	10	11	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	1	(1)	1	-	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	205	(8)	90	115	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	15	(8)	8	7	-	6	(6)
Erysipelas	3	(1)	1	2	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	-	(24)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	1	(-)	1	-	-	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	(2)	1	2	3	-	(1)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	(1)	1	2	2	-	(1)
Totals	252	(48)	113	139	5	6	(8)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

3 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred as compared with 2 in 1962 and 3 in 1961 but no deaths were due to this disease.

Three non-pulmonary cases were notified which is as many as occurred during the previous 10 years. One was a woman of 56 (T.B. spine) whose mother had died the year before from Potts Caries and the second was a girl of 7 (Cervical Glands) whose mother is a pulmonary case. The man was 74 years of age (T.B. shoulder).

A summary of the Register is given below and shows rather higher figures than usual of cases transferred into and out of the district etc. and this is because the periodical check with the Chest Clinic was made during the year:-

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1963 ...	44	47	10	5	106
New notifications	1	2	1	2	6
Transfers from other districts ...	7	2	-	1	10
Old cases returned to district ...	1	1	-	-	2
Deaths due to Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on register but not due to Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district or cannot be traced	8	12	4	2	26
Recovered	2	2	-	-	4
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1963 ...	42	38	7	6	93

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

In all the following tables the figures of vaccinations and immunisations in 1963 have been supplied by the County Medical Officer. Other figures in the columns 'totals now vaccinated or immunised' and all percentages of age groups are my estimates based on actual figures for previous years:-

1) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Vaccinated in 1963		Total now vaccinated 3 injections or doses
	3rd Dose (Salk & Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)	
1963	-	8	8
'57-'62	17	63	555
'43-'56	3	2	1,368
Before 1942	5	14	222
Totals	25	87	2,153

These figures show that about 62% of the 1-5 age group have been protected by 3 injections or doses and a similar percentage of all young persons up to the age of 20.

2) Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1963	Re-inforcing Inoculation in 1963	Total number immunised at end of 1963
1963	34	-	34
1962	43	2	83
1961	3	16	96
1960	-	3	155
1959	1	1	135
'54-'58	2	24	567
'49-'53	-	-	624
Totals	83	46	1,694

About 7 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of children between the ages 1 and 5 have now been immunised and about 80% of all school children.

(c) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Year of Birth	Number immunised in 1962	Total number immunised at end of 1963
1963	34	34
1962	41	81
1961	3	96
1960	-	153
1959	1	147
'54-'58	-	253
Totals	79	764

Since the introduction of triple antigen (diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus) immunisation against Whooping Cough has risen sharply and the levels are now similar to those of Diphtheria, namely about 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ % of the children between 1 and 5 years of age.

(d) Smallpox Vaccination

The County Medical Officer is no longer able to supply complete smallpox vaccination figures.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The major improvements effected in the area arise from re-zoning of supplies and the replacement of undersized mains. In addition considerable extensions have been made to the distribution system to afford new supplies to individual and estate developers.

The estimated total consumption for the year was 218.2 m.g. This figure represents a consumption of 49.5 g.h.d. based on resident population and is apportioned as follows, domestic - 6.5 g.h.d. and non-domestic (metered consumption) - 3 g.h.d. The high domestic consumption figure arises through the lack of figures on holiday population, however, records of winter demand in the area indicate a figure approximate to those for the Borough and Urban areas for resident population.

The following are details of samples taken by the Sheppey Water Board:-

	No. of samples taken	No. of samples in which were found Coliform bacilli	Faecal coli
Wallend -			
Treated	48	1	-
Untreated	47	9	2
Minster -			
Untreated	24	3	1
Abbey Gate -			
Untreated	45	-	-
Warden -			
Untreated	36	13	-
Eastchurch -			
Untreated	32	2	-
Kingsborough -			
Treated	48	-	-

These sources of supply have a natural fluoride content of

Wallend - less than 0.1 p.p.m.

Abbey Gate - 0.6 p.p.m.

Water Lane - 1.3 p.p.m.

Warden Springs - 1.4 p.p.m.

The mainland supply has no fluoride content.

The number of dwelling-houses supplied, with the source and method of distribution was as follows:-

		From public supplies		Private or communal wells	
		Tap in house	Standpipe	No. of wells	No. of houses
Minster	...	3,052	-	-	-
Eastchurch		481	12	1	1
Warden	...	112	-	-	-
Leysdown	...	205	-	2	70*
Harty	...	-	-	5	14
Elmley	...	2	-	-	-

* These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach. In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water from public mains.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district:-

				Number of properties, including camp		
				Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closet
Minster	...	...	...	2,950	166	53
Eastchurch	...	...	...	246	190	112
Leysdown	...	...	...	178	5	45
Warden	...	...	...	94	10	8
Elmley and Harty	...	...	...	-	12	10

(b) Practically all the houses in the Minster area are on main drainage but to many of the remainder the sewer is not easily available. Sewage from the area is collected at either the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works which consist of detritus tanks, settling tanks, filter beds and humus tank. The effluent from Sheerness East is discharged into an open ditch approximately one mile in length before the final discharge on the mud flats at Scrapsgate. The effluent from the Scrapsgate works discharges into the same ditch at Scrapsgate.

(c) Sewage from the Leysdown and Warden Bay area and from Eastchurch is collected at Eastchurch Sewage Works (formerly R.A.F.) and is dealt with by settling tanks, filter beds and humus tank before the effluent is piped to Windmill Creek in the Swale. The disposal works at Eastchurch are considerably overloaded during the peak holiday season.

(d) A joint sewage disposal scheme for the three island authorities is still being considered.

(e) Schemes for the improvement and extension of main drainage facilities for the area are being pursued. In the meantime useful extensions of the main sewers have been completed. These include seven extensions varying from 200 ft. to 1,900 ft.

With the considerable increase in development in the Eastchurch Cliffs area the necessity for main drainage facilities cannot be over-emphasized.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

All refuse is now disposed of by controlled tipping at the Windmill Creek site which is ideally situated away from the populated areas. Routine control measures are taken against flies and rodents.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools in the area are on main drainage and general sanitary conditions have been found to be satisfactory.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown. The conveniences at Leysdown include washing facilities and slipper baths, and washing facilities are also provided at Scrapsgate.

6. DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Four premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year:-

Ants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Treatment of ponds and ditches near houses was again carried out by the use of Malariol.

There was no evidence of any increased breeding and no serious mosquito nuisance was reported during the year.

8. RODENT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed and the following are details of surface infestations found and treated during the year:-

Number of complaints of infestation	...	...	73
Infestations by rats	...	...	191
Infestations by mice	...	...	42
Number treated by local authority	...	...	233
Number of farm surveys	...	...	67
Number of farms treated	...	...	29
Number of survey visits	...	...	1,662
Number of treatment visits	...	...	891

9. CAMPING

Supervision of camps continues to be an important part of the Health Department's work especially during the summer months. Most camps have already reached full development and one new camp commenced development during the year.

The overall standard of the camps is satisfactory and phase development in relation to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 terminates at the end of 1964. The situation however in areas lacking main drainage facilities cannot be considered satisfactory and nuisances from inadequate drainage facilities do arise. Here again the provision of adequate main drainage cannot be over-emphasized. Until such time as main drainage is available to all camps it is difficult to attain the full desired standards under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act.

10. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There is only one swimming bath in the area open to the general public and this is at the Warden Bay Holiday Camp. The bath is purified by a continuous process of filtration, chlorination and aeration and a regular check on chlorination is made by the Public Health Inspector. There are also three private swimming pools owned by holiday camps. Five samples of pool waters were taken for bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory.

Byelaws with respect to Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools which are not under the Council's management are in force.

11. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

12. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined:-

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
Swimming Pool Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sewer Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Vomit	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jar of paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

3. SHOPS ACT

The Public Health Department is responsible for the administration of this Act.

4. HOME SAFETY

The Kent County Council have delegated to the Sheppey Rural District Council their duties in relation to accidents in the home and these functions are carried out by the Health Committee through the Public Health Department.

In addition to poster displays throughout the district, competitions at Christmas in the Junior and Infants schools were again very successful thanks to the kind co-operation of the Head teachers.

5. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

There were no cases of elderly people being in need of care and attention and requiring action for their removal under this Act.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1963 and the total since the war:-

	Minster	Leysdown	Warden	Eastchurch	Total
Council houses:-					
Completed in 1963 ...	32	-	-	-	32
Completed since the war:-					
Permanent	383	14	-	36	433
Temporary	26	-	-	6	32
Private enterprise:-					
Completed in 1963 ...	99	3	3	-	105
Completed since the war	481	34	20	14	549

2. A Demolition Order was made during the year on "Hilltop", Holyrood Drive, Minster.

3. 4 houses were demolished during the year, 2 being in Queenborough Road Clearance Area and 2 after Demolition Orders had been made. The houses were - 31 and 33 Queenborough Road, 16 Seathorpe Avenue and 8 High Street, Minster.

4. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below:-

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	2
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	6

Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	1
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	2
Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)	...	...	...	-
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	-
Houses closed under Sections 17(3) and 26	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	5

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	...	8
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice	...	...	...	4
Housing Act, 1957 - formal notice - Sections 9 and 16	...	...	...	-
Houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	-

Improvement Grants

Number of applications	17
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Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	-
Undertakings by Landlords	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	-
No. of Certificates cancelled	...	...	...	1

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY

There are now 45 distributors of milk in the area, the majority of whom retail both pasteurised and sterilised milk.

2. ICE CREAM

75 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. One manufacturer is also registered.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered:-

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	lb.
Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	lb.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	lb.
Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	lb.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	lb.
Chicken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	lb.
Turkey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	lb.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	lb.
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	lb.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	lb.
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	lb.
Confectionery and cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	lb.

Condemned tinned food is buried on the refuse tip whilst butchers' meat is removed after staining with naphthalene green to the Glue & Chemical Works at Queenborough.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 81 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 or the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, manufacture and sale	75	66
Preserved food, manufacture	2	12
Dairies	1	3

(b) Other food premises by type of business are shown below:-

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	10	plus 1 mobile
Fish, wet	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Fish, fried	...	...	...	...	...	7	plus 1 mobile
Cafes and restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	25	
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Tea rooms	...	...	...	...	...	4	
General stores, including greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	75	
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	...	1	

151 inspections were made of these premises.

5. FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are eight fish frying establishments and all are kept satisfactorily.

5. SHELLFISH

Metal notices displayed at eight sites between Barton's Point and Warden Point warn the public of the danger of eating cockles collected from the foreshore and notices of Port of London's Shellfish Regulations are also exhibited at these sites.

There is occasional collection of cockles from the crapsgate area for commercial use. These are treated at Leighy approved processes in accordance with the Regulations of the Port of London Health Authority.

Sewer swabs were taken throughout the season in an endeavour to trace any possible Typhoid carrier but all swabs proved negative.

. BAKEHOUSES

There is only one bakehouse in the district and this is operated satisfactorily.

8. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year:-

Beef Sausage Meat	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bitter Beer	...	...	...	...	...	2
Blackcurrant Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brandy	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breakfast Vitamins	...	...	...	...	...	1
Curried Chicken and Mushrooms	...	...	...	...	...	1
Double Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dried Fruit Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruited Jiffi-Jelly, Lemon Flavour	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Instant Bread Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lemon Barley Drink	...	...	...	...	...	1
Merocets	...	...	...	...	...	21
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Multivitamins	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pale Ale	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rum	...	...	...	...	...	1
Self-Raising Flour	...	...	...	...	...	2
Spring Greens	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sweet Pickle	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	1
Terms, Starch Reduced	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vodka	...	...	...	...	...	1

All the above samples were satisfactory.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

in respect of the year 1963 for the

Rural District of Sheppey

PART I OF THE ACT:-

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	6	3	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ...	22	7	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	4	1	-	-
Totals ...	32	11	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found -

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	-	-	-	-	-

3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	9	-	-	-	-	-
Other processes	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1963

Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Sinks, repaired or renewed			...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped					...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wall plaster renewed			...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3